

Japan Denies War Threat Against China

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European situation demanded so much attention.

When the Chinese peace delegates arrived in Paris, the information now available discloses, they reported that their copies of the secret treaties were stolen from their baggage while they were passing through Japan, and consequently they were unable to carry out their purpose of making them public at the conference.

Threats Made Officially

According to the reports received here, the threats made against China were conveyed to the Chinese Foreign Minister by the Japanese Minister in Peking in thinly veiled terms. The Japanese Minister is said to have pointed out that Japan had an army of more than a million men idle at home, fully equipped with arms and munitions enough to conduct a long war, and to have pointed out that Japan had more than a half million tons of shipping, with the intention that this would be ready on short notice for active work. He also is said to have referred pointedly to large sums of money owed to Japan by China, and to the fact that China had been unable to live up to her financial agreements.

Upon arriving in Paris without the copies of the treaties which they had been instructed to use in seeking to break Japan's grip the Chinese delegates made verbal reports of the substance of these threats to some of the peace delegates of the other countries. This led the Japanese authorities to demand of China that she disavow this action on the part of her delegates and that she keep secret the treaties.

Treaties Not Ratified

Some of the secret treaties have not yet been ratified by the Chinese government, although Japan has ratified them, and according to today's advice, the Japanese government is bringing every pressure to bear on China to ratify them before anything can be done at Paris. The most important of the treaties as yet unratified by China is the agreement of September 24, 1918, which grants Shantung to Japan and admits Japan as the successor to Germany's rights, concessions and property in the Shantung district. This includes railways, mines and other valuable property and the rights to them for a long term of years. According to the Chinese claim Japan already has possession under treaties and agreements of two-fifths of the iron ore deposits of the entire Chinese Republic and is seeking possession of the other three-fifths.

Although they, so far, have been able to resist the Japanese demands, the Chinese officials now say that the pressure is becoming unbearable. The Chinese president has approved by cable the action of the Chinese delegates in Paris, in announcing their willingness to make public the treaties in spite of Japanese pressure.

Japan Is Reported

Coercing China Into Backing Peace Plans

LONDON, Feb. 10.—The correspondent of Reuters, Ltd., at Peking sends

the following under date of Monday, February 3:

"The Japanese government on Thursday (January 30) informed the Chinese Minister at Tokyo that a change in the attitude of the Chinese delegates in France was desirable. The Chinese should, he said, be guided by the Japanese in all questions of policy."

"The Japanese Minister at Peking on Saturday (February 1) informed the Chinese Foreign Minister that a change of front on the part of the Chinese delegation was necessary, and that Japan desired China to undertake that she would not reveal at the peace conference the secret Sino-Japanese agreements."

Demands Close Harmony

"The Chinese delegates, he said, should work in closest harmony with the Japanese delegates on all questions brought before the peace conference."

"The Japanese Minister added that Great Britain was disturbed with strikes and financial troubles that no definite political or financial help could be expected from that quarter. Failing to receive such assistance, Japan would immediately exercise effective financial pressure upon China. The Japanese Minister demonstrated that China was now in a position to choose between retaining Japan's friendship and meeting Japan's opposition."

"Simultaneously, the Peking militaryists brought great pressure to bear in secret quarters, with a view to securing the adoption of the Japanese viewpoint."

Militarists Still in Power

"Following numerous reports of Japanese pressure upon China in connection with the peace conference, this revelation of Japan's determination permanently to secure the privileges gained during the European war created astonishment throughout China, especially as a section of the Japanese government is known to be opposed to the adoption of the Japanese viewpoint."

"The newspapers, however, emphasize Japan's latest and greatest diplomatic blunder as proving that the Japanese government is still tied to the wheels of the military chariot, whose purpose is to destroy China, regardless of the fact that its action is calculated to force Japan outside the league of nations."

Japan Says It Will

Hold Marshall Isles

And Keep Shantung

PARIS, Feb. 11 (by the Associated Press).—Japan has reiterated her intention to hold the Marshall and Caroline Islands in the Pacific which she took from Germany during the war, as well as to insist upon the execution of her agreement reached in September last with China regarding Shantung.

A formal statement to this effect by Japanese representative has been made public here.

It is not considered that the Chinese-Japanese controversy of Japan's claims regarding the Pacific islands are likely to delay the society of nations project. It seems probable, however, that these matters will be considered later by that organization.

To meet doubts cast upon its authority the Chinese delegation has published cable dispatches received from Shanghai, the provincial Legislature of Shantung, and the Chinese Society for a League of Nations at Peking. These overwhelmingly favor the activities of the delegation, and direct that there be no restitution of China of properties in Shantung.

Secret Treaties With China Made Public by Japanese

Nippon Government Given Preference Over Other Foreign Powers in Financing Developments; Peace Conference Is Not Likely to Interfere

New York Tribune

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Official translation by the Japanese Foreign Office of the so-called secret treaties and agreements between China and Japan, concluded and signed on May 25, 1915, at Peking, which the Chinese peace delegation at Paris have threatened to make public and which Baron Makino, head of the Japanese peace delegation, declared on Saturday, had been furnished to the associated powers, were obtained here today.

The first treaty, respecting the Province of Shantung, contains four articles, as follows:

"Article 1.—The Chinese government engages to recognize all matters that may be agreed upon between the Japanese government and the German government respecting the disposition of all the rights, interests and concessions which, in virtue of treaties or otherwise, Germany possesses vis-à-vis China in relation to the province of Shantung."

"Article 2.—The Chinese engage that in case they undertake the construction of a railway connecting Chefoo on Lungkow with the Kiaochow-Peking railway, they shall, in the event of Germany's surrendering her right of providing capital for the Chefoo-Waichien railway line, enter into negotiations with Japanese capitalists for the purpose of financing the said undertaking."

To Open Towns to Foreigners

"Article 3.—The Chinese government engages to open of their own accord as early as possible suitable cities and towns in the Province of Shantung for the residence and trade of foreigners."

"Article 4.—The present treaty shall take effect on the day of its signature."

Following the signing of the above treaty the Chinese Foreign Minister made the following written declaration to the Japanese Minister at Peking:

"The Chinese government will never lease or alienate, under any designation whatever, to any foreign power any territory within or along the coast of the Province of Shantung or any island lying near the said coast."

The Chinese Foreign Minister made also the following formal declaration:

"I have the honor to state that in accordance with the stipulation of Article 3, of the treaty, respecting Shantung Province, signed to-day, will be selected, and the regulations therefor will be drawn up by the Chinese government, and will be decided upon after consultation with the Japanese Minister."

Extends Port Arthur Lease

The second treaty, respecting South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, contains nine articles, as follows:

"Article 1.—The high contracting parties mutually agree to extend the

terms of the lease of Port Arthur and Dairen, and the term relating to the South Manchurian Railway and to the Antung-Mukden Railway, to a period of ninety-nine years, respectively."

"Article 2.—The subjects of Japan shall be permitted in South Manchuria to lease land necessary either for erecting buildings for various commercial and industrial uses or for agricultural purposes."

"Article 3.—The subjects of Japan shall have liberty to enter, travel and reside in South Manchuria and to carry on business of various kinds—commercial, industrial and otherwise."

"Article 4.—The government of China shall permit joint undertakings in Eastern Inner Mongolia of the subjects of Japan and citizens of China in agricultural and industries auxiliary thereto."

"Article 5.—With respect to the three preceding articles the subjects of Japan shall produce before the local authorities the passports only issued for the purpose of registration, and shall also submit themselves to the police laws and regulations and taxes of China."

Civil and Criminal Actions

"In civil and criminal suits the Japanese consular officer, where a Japanese subject is the defendant, and the Chinese official, where a Chinese citizen is the defendant, shall respectively try and decide the case, both Japanese consular officers and the Chinese official being permitted each to send his agent to attend the trial of the case in order to watch the proceedings; provided that, in civil suits arising out of land disputes between Japanese subjects and Chinese citizens, the cases shall be tried and decided by the joint tribunal, composed of the properly authorized officials of the two countries, in accordance with the laws and local usages of China."

"In the future, when the judicial system in the said regions shall have been completely reformed, all civil and criminal suits involving Japanese subjects shall be wholly tried and decided by the law courts of China."

"Article 6.—The government of China engages to open of their own accord as early as possible suitable cities and towns in Eastern Inner Mongolia for the residence and trade of foreigners."

"Article 7.—The government of China agrees to a speedy fundamental revision of various agreements and contracts relating to the Kirin-Changchun railway, on the basis of the terms embodied in railway loan agreements which the Chinese government entered into with various foreign capitalists. If in future the Chinese government grant to foreign capitalists, in matters that relate to railway loans, more advantageous terms than those in the various existing railway loan agreements, the above mentioned Kirin-Changchun railway loan agreement shall, if so desired by Japan, be further revised."

"Article 8.—Except as otherwise provided in this treaty, all existing treaties between Japan and China with respect to Manchuria shall remain in force."

"Article 9.—The present treaty shall take effect on the day of its signature."

The Chinese Foreign Minister made the following declarations:

"I have the honor to state that the cities and towns to be opened in accordance with the stipulation of Article 6, of the treaty respecting South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, signed to-day, will be selected and the regulations therefor will be drawn up by the Chinese government and will be decided upon after consultation with the Japanese Minister."

Japan Gets First Chance

"The Chinese Government will, when it is proposed in future to build railways in South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, employ Chinese capital for the purpose, and if foreign capital should be required they will negotiate first with Japanese capitalists for a loan; and further, when the Chinese Government proposes to raise a loan abroad on the security of the taxes on the above mentioned regions (excluding, however, the salt, gabelle and customs duties which are already made securities for the loans of the Chinese Central Government), they will first consult Japanese capitalists."

"If, in future, the Chinese government, desire to employ foreign advisers and instructors on political, financial, military and police affairs in South Manchuria, preference shall be given to Japanese."

"In view of the very close relations subsisting between Japanese capitalists and the Han-Yeh-Ping Company, the Chinese government engages to approve the agreement that may be concluded in future between the company and Japanese capitalists for its joint undertaking, and not to confiscate it, to nationalize it without the consent of the Japanese capitalists, or to permit it to contract any foreign loan other than Japanese."

No Military Works

"I have the honor to make the declaration that the Chinese government will in no case permit any foreign power to build a shipyard, military coal station, naval station or any other military establishment, nor do they intend to build the above mentioned establishments with foreign capital."

The last quoted declaration was occasioned by a statement by the Japanese Minister saying: "It has been reported that the Chinese government intends to permit a foreign power to build a shipyard, military coal station, naval station, and all other military establishments, on the coast of Fukien Province, or that China herself intends to build the above mentioned establishments with foreign capital." The minister informed him whether the Chinese government "has, in fact, such intention."

The minister made the following declaration to the Chinese Foreign Minister:

"In the conclusion of the present war, the Japanese government should be given an absolutely free disposal of the leased territory of Kiaochow Bay, they will return the said leased territory to China subject to the following conditions:

"1. Opening of the whole of Kiaochow as a commercial port."

"2. Establishment of a Japanese settlement in the locality to be designated by the Japanese government."

An International Settlement

"3. Establishment, if desired by the powers, of an international settlement."

"4. Arrangements to be made, before the return of the said territory is effected, between the Japanese and Chinese governments, with respect to the disposal of German public establishments and properties and with regard to the other conditions and procedures."

The Japanese Minister also listed a number of mines in South Manchuria, permission to prospect or work which was granted by China in an exchange of notes between the minister and the Chinese Foreign Office. China, it has been often declared in Chinese diplomatic circles in Washington, regards

the United States as its best friend among the powers and there is excellent reason to believe that the Peking government has appealed to President Wilson, through Secretary of State Lansing, to champion China's cause at the peace conference.

It has long been the understanding that American Minister Reisch at Peking played a highly important part in persuading China to enter the war against the Central Powers, and that China, which had failed in an effort to obtain from the Japanese government a promise that China was entitled to participate in the peace negotiations on account of the disposition which was to be made of the Bay, consented to enter the war in consideration of the right this act would give her to sit at the peace table.

China Free Agent

It is known that the American government regards China as a free agent, and that this government desires to see China in complete possession of her independence, her sovereignty and territorial integrity respected by all other powers.

Whether it is possible for China to

induce the peace conference to review the treaties and special engagements into which she entered with Japan, however, is regarded here as extremely questionable in view of the fact that the concessions and special rights Japan has acquired in China came after a succession of international depredations upon China by other great powers, such as England and France, and it would be impossible to consider China's complaints against Japan alone, discriminating thus in favor of other nations.

China's hope is that the Allies and America will recognize a difference in the case of Japan, inasmuch as the treaties and agreements of May 25, 1915, arose from negotiations resulting from the dispossessions of the Germans in Kiaochow by Japan, and the Chinese government contends that the concessions obtained by Japan in consideration of Japan's promise to restore Kiaochow to China were exacted under duress, Japan having ultimately, after sustained Chinese resistance to the demands, dispatched an ultimatum to China requiring her to grant the Japanese demands.

Walters Hints of Plan To Smash Fare Pacts

Power in Commission to Disregard City Traction Contracts Is Suggested

Staff Correspondence

ALBANY, Feb. 11.—Senator J. Henry Walters, president pro tem of the Senate, intimated to-day he is in favor of legislation giving public service commissions the right to increase the rate of fares on all streetcar lines, regardless of whether an existing contract between a transit company and a municipality provides for a flat rate. This was made known to the Republican majority in discussing the Pratt bill which sought to amend Section 49 of the public service law by permitting public service commissions to fix rates, notwithstanding a different rate, fare or charge prescribed by any contract, franchise or contract of the local authorities of any city or other political subdivision of the state."

The three biggest cities in the state—New York, Buffalo and Rochester—would be affected by this legislation. All three have contracts with the transit companies calling for a five-cent fare. In each instance it is nominated in the franchise.

Representatives of the transit companies of these three cities and other municipal cities have been besieging the Governor and the legislative leaders for relief.

Chinese in New York

Ask Anti-Japan Stand

The Chinese Association of New York cabled yesterday to the President of China to stand firm against Japan, and sent messages to President Wilson and the Chinese peace delegation in Paris, urging opposition to Japan's efforts to dominate.

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